

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**



AU9480371

(12) PATENT ABRIDGMENT (11) Document No. AU-B-80371/94
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE (10) Acceptance No. 658554

(Australian Petty Patent)

(54) Title
A PAIR OF PANTS

International Patent Classification(s)
(51)^e A41B 009/02 A41B 009/04 A41D 001/08 A41D 007/00

(21) Application No. : 80371/94 (22) Application Date : 12.12.94

(43) Publication Date : 13.04.95

(45) Publication Date of Granted Application : 13.04.95

(71) Applicant(s)
PORTESSA PTY LTD

(72) Inventor(s)
CATHERINE ANNA GORDON

(74) Attorney or Agent
THOMSON PIZZEY, PO Box 291, WODEN ACT 2606

(56) Prior Art Documents
AU 24090/84 A41B 9/04
AU 39344/78 A41B 9/12
AU 21270/67 A41B 9/04

(57) Claim

1. A pair of pants comprising:

front and rear portions interconnected by a web portion which, in use, is disposed between the wearer's legs;

locating means adapted in use to pass about the waist of the wearer for locating one of the front and rear portions in position on the wearer whilst the other of the front and rear portions is positioned on the wearer; and

fastening means for fastening the front and rear portions together.

658554

APPLICANT: PORTESSA PTY LTD
NUMBER:
FILING DATE:

Form 10
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
The Patents Act 1990

PETTY PATENT SPECIFICATION FOR AN INVENTION ENTITLED:

A PAIR OF PANTS

The following statement is a full description of this invention,
including the best method of performing it known to me/us:

"A PAIR OF PANTS"

This invention relates to a pair of pants suitable for incapacitated persons who have difficulty dressing themselves, particularly those who have difficulty in pulling clothing such as a pair of pants over their feet. Such persons include paraplegics, aged persons, or persons temporarily incapacitated by, for example, broken legs or damaged ankles, knees, hips or backs.

This invention has particular but not exclusive application to underwear such as boxer shorts. However, it will be appreciated that, as used herein, the term "a pair of pants" is used to denote all forms of lower body clothing for males or females including shorts, trousers, panties and briefs.

This invention in one aspect resides broadly in a pair of pants comprising:

front and rear portions interconnected by a web portion which, in use, is disposed between the wearer's legs;

locating means adapted in use to pass about the waist of the wearer for locating one of the front and rear portions in position on the wearer whilst the other of the front and rear portions is positioned on the wearer; and

fastening means for fastening the front and rear portions together.

In another aspect this invention resides broadly in a pair of pants comprising:-

front and rear portions interconnected by a web portion which, in use, is disposed between the wearer's legs;

locating means for locating one of the front and rear portions in position whilst the other of the front and rear portions is positioned; and

fastening means for fastening the front and rear portions together.

Preferably, the front and rear portions have left



2a

and right lateral edges respectively and the fastening means fasten the respective left lateral edges and right lateral edges of the front and rear portions together.

Whilst any form of locating means which achieves the
5 specified function may be used, it is preferred that the locating means is a belt, in use, passed about the waist of the wearer. Alternatively, the locating means may pass over the shoulder or neck of the wearer or may even include adhesives or other means for locating the one of
10 the front and rear portions.

Returning to the preferred embodiment, it is preferred that the belt, in use, extends between the left

3
9



and right lateral edges of the one of the front and rear portions.

Whilst the belt may be selectively fastenable to both the left and right lateral edges of the one of the 5 front and rear portions, it is preferred that the belt is integral with one of the left and right lateral edges of the one of the front and rear portions and is selectively fastenable to the other of the left and right lateral edges of the one of the front and rear portions.

10 Most preferably, the one of the front and rear portions is the front portion such that, in use, the belt passes around the back of the wearer.

In order that this invention may be more easily understood and put into practical effect, reference will 15 now be made to the accompanying drawings which illustrate a preferred embodiment of the invention, wherein:

FIG 1 is a plan view of a pair of pants according to the invention laid out flat;

FIG 2 is a first perspective view of a person 20 putting the pair of pants of FIG 1 on;

FIG 3 is a second perspective view subsequent to FIG 2;

FIG 4 is a third perspective view subsequent to FIG 3; and

25 FIG 5 is a fourth perspective view subsequent to FIG 4.

Referring to FIG 1, there is illustrated a pair of pants 10 comprising front portion 12 and rear portion 14 interconnected by a web portion 16 which, in use, is 30 disposed between the wearer's legs.

The pair of pants also comprises locating means 18, in the form of an elasticised belt, for locating the front portion 12 in position whilst the rear portion 14 is positioned. Of course, the locating means may be 35 operable to locate the rear portion whilst the front portion is positioned. Whilst the locating means takes the form of an elasticised belt in the preferred embodiment, the locating means may take other forms.

Front portion 12 has left and right lateral edges 20 and 22 respectively. Similarly, rear portion has left and right lateral edges 24 and 26 respectively.

The pair of pants also comprises fastening means disposed adjacent the respective left and right lateral edges for fastening the front and rear portions together. In the preferred embodiment, the fastening means takes the form of VELCRO (TM) strips. However, other known fastening means such as zippers, buttons, press studs or hooks and eyes may be used.

The belt, in use, extends between the left and right lateral edges 20 and 22 of the front portion 12 to thereby pass around the back of the wearer and encircle the waist of the wearer. The belt extends from left lateral edge 20 and is selectively fastenable to the right lateral edge 22 by means of a press stud 28, 30. Of course, other known fasteners such as buttons or hooks and eyes may be used.

Alternatively, in a manner not illustrated, the VELCRO (TM) strip on right lateral edge 22 may not extend all the way to the top of the front portion 12 in the same manner as the VELCRO (TM) on left lateral edge 20. Rather, a small piece of VELCRO (TM) may be located on the elasticised belt on the opposite side to press stud component 28. This small piece of VELCRO (TM) is engagable by a complementary piece of VELCRO (TM) located on the end of edge portion 36.

Edge 36 of rear portion 14 is elasticised so that the entire waist of the pair of pants is elasticised.

In use, the belt 18 is passed about the back of the wearer as illustrated in FIG 2. In this position the front portion 12 is located such that rear portion 14 can be passed between the wearer's legs and subsequently fixed in place by engagement of the VELCRO (TM) strips extending the length of the lateral edges of the front and rear portions. This operation is illustrated in FIGS 3 and 4, with the final assembled product illustrated in FIG 5.

The pair of pants in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the invention has a number of advantages. Putting the pair of pants on or removing the pair of pants is greatly facilitated. In instances where assistance is required for dressing or where the patient must be bathed or toileted, the wearer has a degree of privacy due to the location of the front portion whilst these operations are carried out. Whilst toileting or dressing a patient, the rear portion can be pulled through to the front and fastened to the belt at the front in a similar manner to being fastened to the belt at the back. In this configuration the garment serves in the manner of a lap cloth thereby providing privacy to the wearer.

The pants may be put on without any requirement that the patient be forced into an upright or standing position. The side openings facilitate medical examination, injections and the like. Furthermore, in the case of dressing patients in traction or fracture patients in plaster, the pants in accordance with the present invention obviate the necessity of pulling the pants over the legs thereby providing simpler, more expeditious and potentially less painful dressing procedures.

The pair of pants may be absorbent and/or disposable. Alternatively, the pair of pants may include a sleeve or otherwise be adapted to receive a disposable absorbent pad.

It will of course be realised that whilst the above has been given by way of an illustrative example of this invention, all such and other modifications and variations hereto, as would be apparent to persons skilled in the art, are deemed to fall within the broad scope and ambit of this invention as is herein set forth.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

1. A pair of pants comprising:
 - front and rear portions interconnected by a web portion which, in use, is disposed between the wearer's legs;
 - locating means adapted in use to pass about the waist of the wearer for locating one of the front and rear portions in position on the wearer whilst the other of the front and rear portions is positioned on the wearer; and
 - fastening means for fastening the front and rear portions together.
2. A pair of pants as defined in claim 1, wherein the front and rear portions have left and right lateral edges respectively and the fastening means fasten the respective left lateral edges and right lateral edges of the front and rear portions together.
3. A pair of pants as defined in claim 1 or 2, wherein the locating means is a belt integral with one of the left and right lateral edges of the one of the front and rear portions and is selectively fastenable to the other of the left and right lateral edges of the one of the front and rear portions.

DATED this SIXTH day of FEBRUARY 1995.

PORTESSA PTY LTD

30 by
THOMSON PIZZEY

ABSTRACT

A pair of pants comprising:

front and rear portions interconnected by a web
5 portion which, in use, is disposed between the wearer's
legs;

locating means for locating one of the front and
rear portions in position whilst the other of the front
and rear portions is positioned; and

10 fastening means for fastening the front and rear
portions together.



1/2

8037194

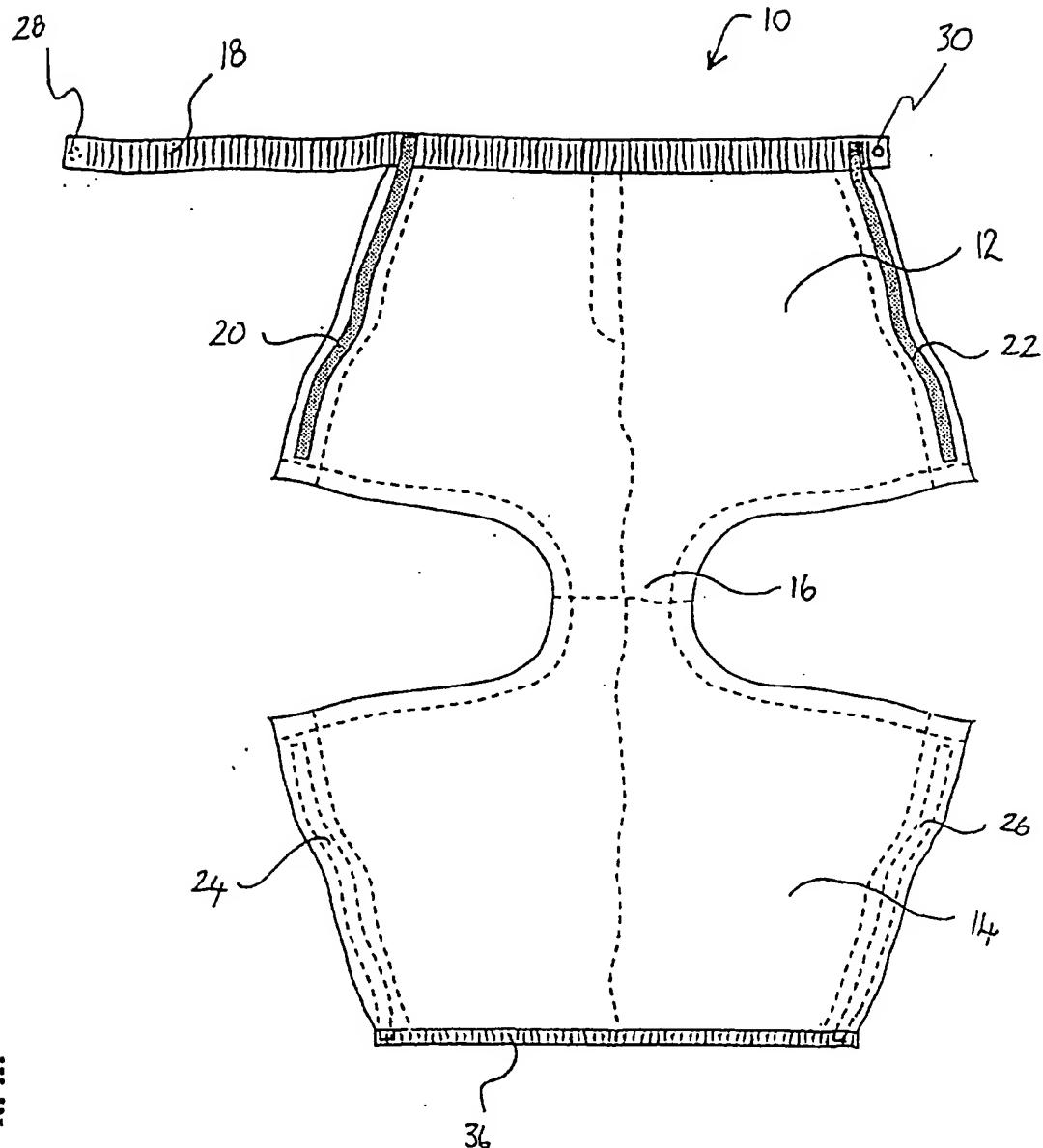


Fig. 1

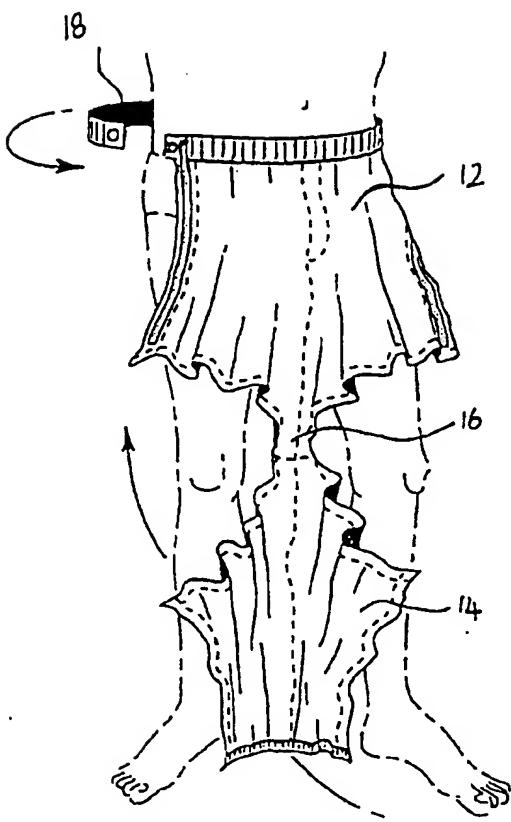


Fig. 2.

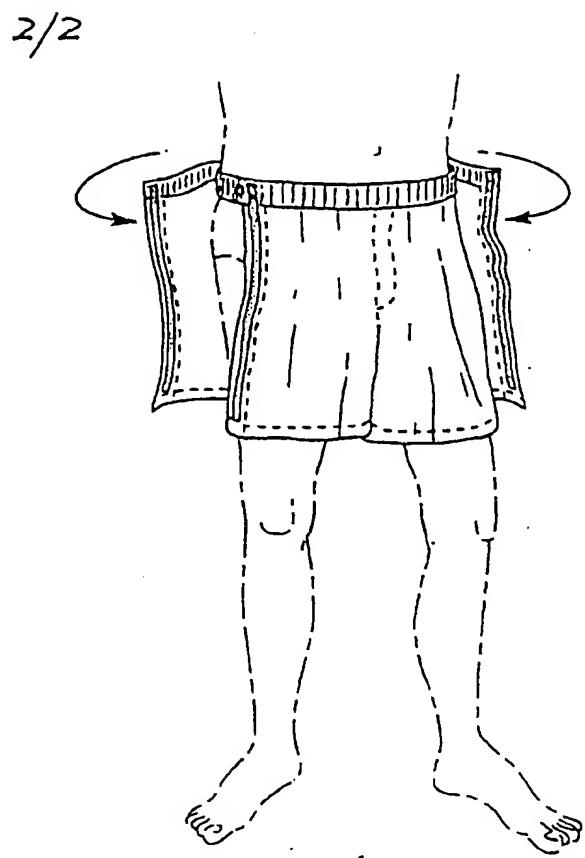


Fig. 3.

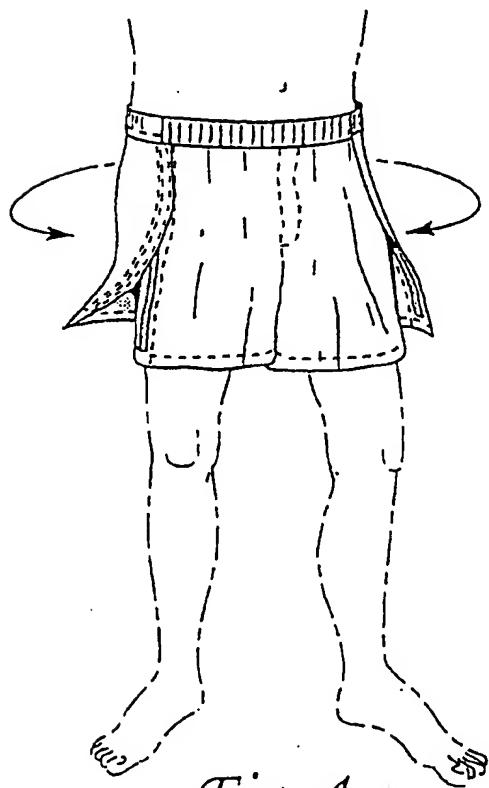


Fig. 4.

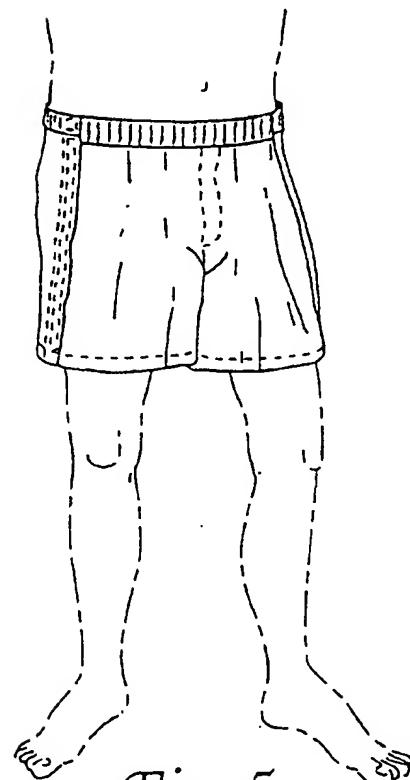


Fig. 5.